



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

NOV 16 2009

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Nancy S. Larson, District Ranger
LaCroix Ranger District
Superior National Forest
320 Highway 53 N
Cook, Minnesota 55723

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Border Project, LaCroix Ranger District,
Superior National Forest, St. Louis County, Minnesota - EIS No. 20090356

Dear Ms. Larson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the above-mentioned project in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA assigned a rating of "Lack of Objections" to the Draft EIS in our July 6, 2009 letter. The Draft EIS analyzed impacts associated with Alternative 2, the Modified Proposed Action, and Alternative 3, the Preferred Alternative. We had no substantive comments on either alternative. The ROD indicates that Alternative 2 Modified was selected for implementation. Based on our review of the Final EIS and the ROD, we maintain our lack of objections. By implementing Forest Plan standards and guidelines as well as project design features, the proposed project is not expected to result in significant impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via email at kowal.kathleen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USFS, Milwaukee, WI